

NEWS RELEASE



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San Diego, California***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - July 22, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Michael Krapchan, Hassan Shirani and Ryan Wedding were arraigned today in federal court in San Diego before Magistrate Judge Nita L. Stormes on a one-count indictment charging them with narcotics violations.

The indictment charges Krapchan, Shirani and Wedding with conspiracy to distribute approximately 24 kilograms of cocaine, a felony. All three defendants are Canadian citizens; Wedding was a member of the 2002 Canadian Olympic Snowboarding Team.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Orlando B. Gutierrez, who is prosecuting the case, the defendants were previously arraigned on a criminal complaint that charged them with conspiracy to possess cocaine with intent to distribute and to distribute cocaine. The complaint was superseded by today's indictment.

The defendants are next scheduled to be in court for a motions/trial setting hearing on August 15, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., before United States District Judge Jeffrey T. Miller.

DEFENDANTS

Criminal Case No. 08cr2386JM

Michael Krapchan
Hassan Shirani
Ryan Wedding

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846
Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine

The alleged crime carries a maximum custodial sentence of life imprisonment, a five-year term of supervised release, a maximum fine of four million dollars and a mandatory special assessment of one hundred dollars.

AGENCY

Federal Bureau of Investigation

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.